



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

SIR ERNEST SHACKLETON. With the death of Sir Ernest Shackleton Britain loses one of the most brilliant explorers of modern days. Shackleton began his career of Antarctic exploration as a member of Scott's 1901-1904 expedition in the *Discovery*. Characteristically enough he was one of the party of three that achieved the "farthest south" of that date, reaching to within 463 miles of the pole. In 1907 Shackleton returned to the Antarctic with his own ship, the *Nimrod*, on an expedition notable for its employment of new methods and equipment and for its striking results. Like the succeeding expeditions, it was a purely private enterprise. Of the results it is enough to say that Mt. Erebus was climbed, the Magnetic Pole was discovered, and a journey was made via the great Beardmore glacier to within 100 miles of the pole. Among polar expeditions it stands out as one "well conceived, well planned, and well carried out," as Edwin Swift Balch says in his review of "The Heart of the Antarctic" (*Bull. Amer. Geogr. Soc.*, Vol. 42, 1910, pp. 9-21). Among the many honors bestowed on its author was the Cullum Geographical Medal of the American Geographical Society.

Immediately on his return from the Antarctic Shackleton gave his interest and support to the proposed Australasian Antarctic Expedition, the command of which he handed over to Mr. (later Sir) Douglas Mawson. He himself worked out a project for crossing the Antarctic continent from the Weddell Sea to the Ross Sea. The *Aurora*, which had been engaged in the Australasian expedition, was detailed to proceed to Ross Sea with a party to lay a chain of depots to Beardmore glacier for the transcontinental journey. This was accomplished; but meanwhile the ship broke away, leaving this section of the expedition stranded in winter quarters, whence they were ultimately rescued by the *Aurora*, with Shackleton on board. The *Endurance* carrying the Weddell Sea party was still more unfortunate. After cruising along Coats' Land she was caught in the ice on January 15, 1915, and drifted northward until October 27, when she was crushed. Shackleton and his party continued drifting northward on the ice floe until April 12, 1916, when they made for Elephant Island. The story of the leader's bold journey in a small open boat to South Georgia (750 miles) and across the mountainous, glacier-clad island on foot to the whaling station and of his repeatedly attempted and ultimately successful rescue of the marooned men left behind under Frank Wild is well known and justly acclaimed as one of the greatest epics of polar exploration (see *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 2, 1916, pp. 54-57; 231-232, and Vol. 3, 1917, pp. 245-246; 397). Shackleton's own story of the expedition is told in "South" (1920).

On this return from polar regions Shackleton served in the army—as officer in charge of supplies for the British forces in the White Sea and northern Russia—until conclusion of the war released his energies for further polar work. He at first planned an expedition into Arctic waters, to the Beaufort Sea, but subsequently he decided to return to the Antarctic to carry out investigations in the practically unknown Enderby Quadrant and various little-known sub-Antarctic islands. The *Quest* left England September 24, 1921, and after a stormy voyage entailing trying delays she had only reached South Georgia when on January 5 her commander died suddenly at the age of 48. In accordance with what would undoubtedly have been his wishes the expedition will continue under the leadership of Wild, while Shackleton has been buried in that remote island on the threshold of the Antarctic.

Shackleton's personality was not less interesting than his exploits. To his commanding personality, his courageous and indomitable spirit, and certain quality of "instinctive judgment" that together made for leadership in a supreme degree tribute is paid by Hugh Robert Mill in a recent number of *Nature* (February 2, 1922), and a splendid portrait, "Sir Ernest Shackleton: A Study in Personality," is sketched by Charles Sarolea in the March number of the *Contemporary Review*.